



Mental Health Transformation Grant

Employment Works!

County of Somerset - Richard Hall Community Mental Health Center

Local Service Area: Somerset County, NJ

Primary Service Focus: Jobs and Economy

Project Director: Faith McCalla

Project Team Members: Michael Frost, Robert Kley, Nicci Spinazzola, Kevin Metzler, Lida Hartfiel, Tomeco Washington, Christine Dante

CMHS Project Officer: Risa Fox

Evidence-Based Practice(s): Supported Employment

Project Description: *Employment Works!* is a model systems change initiative that removes perceived barriers, expands access, and increases positive outcomes of Supported Employment for persons with serious mental illness by adding wraparound mentoring and support components to the Supported Employment (SE) Evidence-Based Practice model. It also creates a strategy of community collaboration, integrating employment into the county's wellness and recovery transformation initiative as an expected outcome and changing the mental health and vocational services referral processes to streamline access to SE services. Adding the Recovery Partnership for Employment component of the program creates new opportunities, motivates and supports consumers to choose employment as part of recovery, and provides peer-delivered Work and Wellness services to maintain and enhance employment. Peer Navigators provide individual vocational mentoring to support vocational wellness and facilitation of support around issues pre and post job search. *Employment Works!* will place consumers in competitive employment, make infrastructure and policy changes integrate employment into the wellness and recovery transformation, generate significant data about the impact of peer delivered wellness and recovery supports on employment and employment, and measure the financial impact of employment on the wellness and recovery of persons with serious mental illness.